

IMPERIUM

January 10, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

VIA FACSIMILE

Dear Mr. Ashcroft;

It is in the best interest of the country, the economy and the IT sector generally for the settlement between Microsoft and the government to be accepted and finalized by the court as soon as possible. Continued litigation will only serve to further harm all of the aforementioned.

Settlement is a far better alternative to continued litigation and the goal of some who are pushing very hard to have Microsoft broken up by the government. The settlement should make even Microsoft's biggest adversaries content because it includes many things that go well beyond the scope of the original lawsuit. On a more basic level it systematically addresses and resolves all of the major grievances of Microsoft's adversaries. For example the settlement insures that Microsoft will grant computer makers extensive new rights to reconfigure Windows so as to promote non-Microsoft software programs. This should make Microsoft's competitors ecstatic. I will refrain from going through each section of the settlement, as I am confident you are aware of its terms. However, please know that most people believe it is fair and equitable.

The sooner the settlement is finalized, the sooner technological innovation can get back on track and the U.S. economy can begin to recover. Thank you

Sincerely,


Marshall C. Harrison
Chairman, CEO